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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 003847

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/04/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [IT](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: EU/LIBYA ARMS EMBARGO - ITALY WON'T RISK
REQUESTING PULLBACK TO PARTIAL LIFTING

REF: STATE 207640

Classifie By: A/DCM TOM COUNTRYMAN. REASON:1.5 (B)(D)

1. (C) MFA Director for EU CFSP Luigi Mattioli/ told poloff on October 1 that he saw "little or no chance" that the October 11 GAERC will not approve the COREPER recommendation that the EU arms embargo be lifted in its entirety. Process to partially lift September in an effort tools it needed to contrtop illegal immigra. Mattioli was veryal was accepted with vd other member state pe rmQ`h`re the US to halt some assferring country. He said hifting the embargo wo`n strengthening the EU transfer, to include aing mechanism and increase`lly with regard to weap`ntries recently subject to an embargo.

3. (C) When pressed, Mattioli confirmed that Italy was willing to accept a partial lifting, and still would if it was proposed and clear it would reach quick consensus. Italy would not, underlined Mattioli, propose such a measure itself. He stressed the immediate illegal immigration concerns driving Italian policy, and said that Italy would not risk sabotaging the progress made thus far and "starting all over again in Brussels."

4. (C) Comment: Illegal immigration from Libya remains one of the hottest political issues in Italy. Once the "two Simonas" were released from captivity in Iraq, the issue reassumed its place among the top headlines in national dailies. It is highly unlikely that the government will do anything that risks undermining what it considers as real progress in stemming this flow across the Mediterranean, for instance, Tripoli's agreement to accept the return of the latest group of clandestine immigrants.

SEMBLER

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